



## Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute *of* Florida

# FACT SHEET

### ABOUT:

The Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute of Florida (VGTI Florida) is an independent 501(c)3 organization related to the renowned Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute at Oregon Health & Science University in Beaverton, Ore., recognized nationally for its innovative scientific research.

### EMPLOYEES:

VGTI Florida has about 50 employees in 2010, with plans to have approximately 200 by 2018 with an average wage of \$60,000 per year.

### RESEARCH:

Scientists at VGTI Florida focus on developing vaccines and therapeutics to fight infectious diseases, cancer and to boost the immune response of aging populations, which are most vulnerable to disease. They're studying the human immune system to prevent and treat diseases by rapidly moving discoveries in the laboratory to the clinic for use as medical treatment. The institute's researchers have contributed to significant advances in the development of vaccines and other therapeutics to fight diseases such as AIDS, melanoma, breast cancer, prostate cancer, yellow fever and dengue fever.

### FUNDS:

In January 2008, the Florida Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade & Economic Development (OTTED) agreed to support the creation of VGTI Florida with \$60 million from the state's Innovation Incentive Fund. The City of Port St. Lucie also helped to make the vision of VGTI Florida a reality by agreeing to invest \$53 million to develop the infrastructure for the institute's new home. Research at the institute is funded through grants from the National Institutes of Health, and other funding organizations.

### FUTURE:

Plans call for VGTI Florida's new research facility of about 100,000 square feet to open in 2012. The governor's office estimated that over 20 years VGTI Florida and anticipated startup companies will directly and indirectly support more than 1,460 positions, generate \$2 billion in payroll and \$4.2 billion in gross state product.

### BIOSCIENCE CLUSTER:

The institute is a key component of Florida's growing bioscience cluster that has attracted world-renowned scientific research organizations to the state. In fact, many of VGTI Florida's scientists are already collaborating with other international researchers at the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies, Scripps Florida, Martin Memorial Health Systems, Moffitt Cancer Center, and the University of Miami and Keiser University.



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### TEMPORARY FACILITIES:

VGTI Florida is currently housed on the 3rd floor of the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies headquarters at the Tradition Center for Innovation, Port St. Lucie, Fla.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

VGTI Florida is partnering with local schools and community groups to encourage the next generation of researchers. It has ongoing programs with Indian River State College, St. Lucie County Public Schools, and Martin Memorial.

### LEADERSHIP:

**Executive Director and Vice President:**

Dr. Jay Nelson

**Scientific Director and Co-Director:**

Dr. Rafick-Pierre Sékaly

**Chief Operating Officer:**

Mark Williams

**Manager Scientific Affairs:**

Dr. John Schatzle

**Full Members:**

Dr. John Hiscott

Dr. Rafick-Pierre Sékaly

**Associate Member:**

Dr. Elias K. Haddad

**Assistant Members:**

Dr. Nicolas Chomont

Dr. Lydie Trautmann

### MEDIA CONTACT:

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